

## **Avoid Pesticides In Your Home and Garden**

Your home is in a WATERSHED, a land area that drains water into our creeks. Rain carries pesticides from your home, garden, and yard into storm drains that empty directly into our creeks and the Bay. Many commonly used household products including bug sprays, snail bait and weed killers contain chemicals that may be harmful to aquatic life. These chemicals are used to kill a wide variety of insect pests including ants, fleas, cockroaches, aphids, spiders, and wasps. They work by shutting down the nervous system of target pests, but can have the same impact on beneficial insects and birds. Children and pets can also be harmed through repeated exposure, or short time exposure to high concentrations.

## **How You Can Reduce Pesticide Use and Protect Your Watershed**

- Keep pests from entering your home by trimming plants and trees so they don't touch your house.
- Prevent ant invasions by storing food in containers that seal tightly.
- Keep things clean and dry and caulk cracks where ants are entering the house.
- The easiest and safest way to get rid of spiders and their webs is to vacuum them up. The dust inside the vacuum bag will quickly suffocate spiders. This works for lines of ants too.
- Select non-toxic or less-toxic alternatives to pesticides. Contact *Watershed Watch* for more tips.
- Don't use pesticides outdoors when rain is predicted, or prior to watering your lawn or garden.
- Never dispose of pesticides in the trash, storm drain or sink. Call the **Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program at (408) 299-7300** for drop off information or visit [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org)

For more information about less-toxic pest control and ways to protect your watershed please visit [www.WatershedWatch.net](http://www.WatershedWatch.net) or call **1-866-WATERSHED**.